



Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships

Answers to Common Questions about Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships



Presenters



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Objectives

- Answer common questions about the EHS-CC Partnerships
- Highlight resources available for applicants
- Continue to familiarize participants with funding opportunity





Eligibility Questions





Who is eligible to apply for the EHS-CC Partnership opportunity?

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Current Head Start or Early Head Start grantees
- Independent school districts
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations
- Small businesses
- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments



What is the difference between a EHS-CC Partnership grantee and partner?

- The applicant entity will be awarded the EHS-CC Partnership grant and therefore considered the **grantee**.
- The EHS-CC Partnership grant opportunity will bring together new or existing EHS grantees with local center-based and/or family child care providers (**partners**).
- Exact role for each partner will vary depending on community needs and resources.



What is the incentive for EHS and child care programs to partner?

- Creating access to full day, full year high quality care and early education
- Providing continuous comprehensive services
- Creating an aligned system of professional development
- Providing lower ratios and class sizes for child care programs
- Ensuring licensed facilities, ongoing supervision and evidence-based curriculum
- Integrating Head Start Program Performance Standards with state and local regulations that support quality
- Providing a more dependable source of program income



Could there be an EHS-CC Partnership grant awarded in an existing EHS grantee's service area?

- Yes, when an applicant demonstrates unmet need, an EHS-CC Partnership grant may be awarded in the same service area as an existing grantee.
- The funding opportunity encourages applicants to partner to provide high quality comprehensive services for additional low-income children within a community.

Can a child care program become an EHS-CC Partnership grantee?

- A child care program can become an EHS-CC Partnership grantee, but must partner with other child care centers or family child care homes.
- Any eligible organization or agency in a community can apply to be an EHS-CC Partnership grantee.

Will the EHS-CC Partnership grant fund EHS slots or child care slots?

- The grant will fund EHS-CC Partnership slots!
- All EHS-CC Partnership enrolled children and families will be eligible for EHS and receive high quality, comprehensive EHS services through their child care program.
- Children who attend child care but are not enrolled in the EHS-CC Partnership will benefit through things like improved curriculum and better trained staff.





Can an applicant propose home visiting or EHS home based (home visiting)? Is home based part of the EHS-CC Partnership?

- No, EHS-CC Partnership grantees will be center-based or family child care homes. Home-based (home visiting) EHS programs can apply to deliver full-day full-year comprehensive services in center-based or family child care setting. In other words, an EHS Home Based program could form an EHS-CC Partnership with a child care provider.
- EHS home based (home visiting) programs should consider applying for an expansion opportunity under the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program.





Funding questions



How will state allocations work?

- When the FOA is published it will include a list of funding allocations by state.
- While these allocations represent the total funding **available** within each state, multiple applicants can apply for that state's allocations.
- ACF encourages all eligible applicants to apply and looks forward to a robust competition.
- Only high quality applications will be funded.



Will applicants within a state be competing against each other?

- Yes, all applications will receive equal consideration in the competitive review process regardless of how many are submitted for one geographic service area.
- State, Tribal Local governments, non-profit and for-profit agencies, local education agencies and others are eligible to apply. For a full list of eligible applicants, see <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants/ehs-ccp>



What percentage of funds will be available specifically for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start programs and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs?

- No less than 3% and 4.5% of total funds, respectively.
- Only high quality applications will be funded.

Will start up funds be available? Will there be start up time for grantees?

- Applications must describe start up needs, timelines, and provide a budget.
- Start up funding requests must be justified based on need.
- Additionally, implementation TA will be available for the first 18 months of the grant for both initial start up and operation.



Program Requirement Questions



What is the accountability structure for Partnerships?

- From the first day of operation, grantees are accountable for ensuring that all children are in settings that meet EHS health and safety standards.
- Grantees must develop a system for implementing and delivering comprehensive services. This includes record-keeping, reporting and ongoing monitoring to ensure all children and families are receiving needed services and that children are making progress.
- All sites are accountable to the grantee and the grantee is accountable to ACF.





What are the differences in requirements between CCDF and Head Start?

- Head Start funding flows from the federal government directly to local grantees.
- CCDF grants are awarded to States.
- ACF has created several resources to assist the community in understanding the requirements of each program including [EHS-CC Partnerships 101](#) and [Program Standards Crosswalk](#) resources.



What ratios are required for EHS?

- Center-based programs require one teacher for every four infants/toddlers.
- The maximum group size in an EHS classroom is eight children with two EHS qualified teachers.
- For the family child care option, the maximum group size for one teacher is six young children, with no more than two under the age of two.



What are EHS staff qualifications?

- Center-based Early Head Start teachers
- Family child care Early Head Start teachers
- Early Head Start directors



Can EHS-CC Partnership grantees accept parent fees?

- Families receiving subsidies are required to pay parent fees unless the State, Territory or Tribe has elected to waive the co-payment requirement for families below the federal poverty level.
- If your State has not waived the co-payment, the EHS-CC Partnership may collect the fee for purposes of meeting the subsidy requirement

What is DRS?

- DRS is the Designation Renewal System commonly referred to as re-competition for Head Start and Early Head Start grantees.
- DRS was established in the Head Start Act as reauthorized in 2007 (Act), to determine which grantees will receive continued funding non competitively and which grantees must compete for renewed funding.
- More information about DRS can be found at this link:
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants/dr>



How does DRS impact partnerships? If I am a current EHS grantee competing under DRS, am I eligible to apply for a EHS-CC Partnership grant?

- EHS-CC Partnership grantees will not be subject to DRS until 18 months after the date of award.
- A current EHS grantee that is competing under DRS is eligible to apply for an EHS-CC Partnership grant.

Are programs required to provide full-day, full-year services? What does that mean?

- Yes, EHS-CC Partnership grantees are required to provide full-day, full year services that meet the needs of families served.
- Full day means at least 10 hours.
- Full year means a minimum of 48 weeks.



Are EHS-CC Partnerships required to serve children with disabilities?

- Ten percent of a grantee's total enrollment must be children with disabilities (this is at the grantee level, it does not mean each individual partnership site necessarily has 10%).
- Many resources are available to support the needs of children with disabilities.
- EHS-CC Partnership grantees can apply for a waiver if, after exhaustive efforts they cannot meet this requirement.





Where To Go for More Information and Resources

[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/
hslc/hs/grants/ehs-ccp](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants/ehs-ccp)



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How To Apply for Funding

- Any organization planning to submit an application for funding must register with Grants.gov. **The registration process can take 1 to 3 weeks, depending on your organization, so start now!**
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/register-and-get-ready>



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education in America*

